

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified patent application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Sub B1  
1. (currently amended) A method for tracking ~~the location of an asset that includes with a radio frequency identification/and radio frequency data communication (RFID/RFDC) device and a plurality of marker tags,~~ comprising:

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~~sending at least one a first interrogation signal at a first time from the RFID/RFDC device to at least one a first marker tag of the plurality of marker tags located at a first location;~~

~~receiving a first signal from a the first marker tag with the RFID/RFDC device;~~

~~processing the first signal with the RFID/RFDC device to determine a first identity of identify the first marker tag;~~

~~sending the identity of the marker tag to a host computer system; and~~

~~sending a second interrogation signal at a second time after the first time from the RFID/RFDC device to a second marker tag of the plurality of marker tags located at a second location;~~

~~receiving a second signal from a the second marker tag with the RFID/RFDC device;~~

~~processing the second signal with the RFID/RFDC device to determine a second identity of the second marker tag; and~~

~~processing the first identity of the first marker tag and the second identity of the second marker with the host computer system, such that the marker tags are located at known locations, to determine the location of track the asset.~~

2. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the asset is a person.

3. (original) The method defined in claim 2 wherein the RFID/RFDC device is incorporation within a cell phone.

4. (original) The method defined in claim 2 wherein the RFID/RFDC device is incorporated within a personal data assistant.

5. (original) The method defined in claim 2 wherein the RFID/RFDC device is incorporated within pager.

6. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the first identity of the first marker tag and the second identity of the second marker tag is are sent to a the host computer system in response to a request from the host computer system and the host computer system conducts the processing of the first identity of the first marker tag and the second identity of the second marker to track the asset.

a 7. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the RFID/RFDC device receives a third signalsignals from more than one a third marker tag of the plurality of markers located at a third location in addition to receiving the first signal from the first marker tag, the method further comprising processing the received first signals and the third signal to determine the identity of the marker tag that which of the first marker tag and the third marker tag is closest to the RFID/RFDC device.

8. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 7 wherein the signal strength of the first signals and third signal received from the first marker tags and third marker tag are processed to determine which of the first marker tag and the third marker tagthe identity of the marker tag that is closest to the RFID/RFDC device.

9. (currently amended) A system for tracking ~~the location~~ of an asset with a plurality of marker tags located at known locations, comprising:

a radio frequency identification—~~and~~/radio frequency data communication (RFID/RFDC) device associated with the asset, wherein the RFID/RFDC device:

sends a first interrogations signals at a first time to a first marker tag of the plurality of marker tags located at a first known location;

receives a first signal from a the first marker tag;~~and~~

processes the first signal to identify a first identity of the first marker tag;

sends a second interrogation signal at a second time to a second marker tag of the plurality of marker tags located at a second known location;

receives a second signal from the second marker tag;

processes the second signal to identify a second identity of the second marker tag; and

a host computer system that receives the first identity of the first marker tag and the second identity of the second marker tag from the RFID/RFDC device and determines the location of the RFID/RFDC device from the first identity of the first marker tag and the second identity of the second marker tag.

10. (original) The system defined in claim 9 wherein the asset is a person.

11. (original) The system defined in claim 10 wherein the RFID/RFDC device is incorporated within a cell phone.

12. (original) The system defined in claim 10 wherein the RFID/RFDC device is incorporated within a personal data assistant.

13. (original) The system defined in claim 10 wherein the RFID/RFDC device is incorporated within a pager.

14. (currently amended) The system defined in claim 9 wherein the host computer system receives the first identity of the first marker tag and the second identity of the second marker tag from the RFID/RFDC device in response to a request from the host computer system.

ai 15. (currently amended) The system defined in claim 9 wherein the RFID/RFDC device receives a third signals from ~~more than one~~ a third marker tag of the plurality of markers located at a third location in addition to receiving the first signal from the first marker tag and wherein the RFID/RFDC device processes the received first signals and third signal to determine ~~the identity of~~ which of the first marker tag and third marker tag that is closest to the RFID/RFDC device.

16. (currently amended) The system defined in claim 15 wherein the signal strength of the first signals and the third signal received from the first marker tags and the third marker tag are processed to determine ~~the identity~~ which of the first marker tag and the second marker tag ~~that~~ is closest to the RFID/RFDC device.

17. (currently amended) A method for tracking the locations of assets with a plurality of ~~that include~~ locator tags with ~~and~~ a plurality of stationary radio frequency identification ~~and~~ radio frequency data communication (RFID/RFDC) devices, comprising:

sending a first plurality of interrogation signals from the plurality of stationary RFID/RFDC devices to the plurality of locator tags at a first time;

receiving a first plurality of return signals with the plurality of stationary RFID/RFDC devices from the plurality of locator tags that are in range of the first plurality of interrogation signals sent from the plurality of stationary RFID/RFDC devices;

processing the first plurality of return signals with the plurality of stationary RFID/RFDC devices to determine ~~the~~ a first identity of the plurality of locator tags that are in range of the first plurality of interrogation signals ~~each RFID/RFDC devices~~;

Q1 ~~sending the identity of the locator tags from each RFID/RFDC device to a host computer system, wherein the location of each RFID/RFDC device is known by the host computer system;~~

sending a second plurality of interrogation signals from the plurality of stationary RFID/RFDC devices to the plurality of locator tags at a second time;

receiving a second plurality of return signals with the plurality of stationary RFID/RFDC devices from the plurality of locator tags that are in range of the second plurality of interrogation signals sent from the plurality of stationary RFID/RFDC devices;

processing the second plurality of return signals with the plurality of stationary RFID/RFDC devices to determine a second identity of the plurality of locator tags that are in range of each of the plurality of stationary RFID/RFDC devices; and

processing the first identity and second identity of the plurality of locator tags ~~that are received by the host computer system to determine~~ track the locations of the assets.

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) A system for tracking the location of a plurality of assets that include a plurality of locator tags, comprising:

a plurality of radio frequency identification/~~and~~ radio frequency data communication (RFID/RFDC) devices located at known locations, wherein the RFID/RFDC devices:

send a first plurality of interrogation signals to the plurality of locator tags at a first time~~assets;~~

receive a first plurality of return signals from the plurality of locator tags that are in range of the first plurality of interrogation signals associated with the plurality of assets; and

process the first plurality of return signals from the locator tags to determine a first identity of the plurality of locator tags that are in range of the first plurality of interrogation signals~~each RFID/RFDC device;~~

send a second plurality of interrogation signals to the plurality of locator tags at a second time;

receive a second plurality of return signals from the plurality of locator tags that are in range of the second plurality of interrogation signals;

process the second plurality of return signals to determine a second identity of the plurality of locator tags that are in range of the second plurality of interrogation signals; and

a host computer system that receives the first identity of the locator tags and the second identity of the locator tags that are in range of each RFID/RFDC device and determines the location of the assets from the known locations of the RFID/RFDC devices ~~and~~ the first identity of the locator tags that are in range of each RFID/RFDC device at the first time, and the second identity of the locator tags that are in range of each RFID/RFDC device at the second time.

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A radio frequency identification (RFID) tag comprising:  
at least two a first RFID antennas;

a second RFID antenna; and

a switching mechanism that is connected to the at least two first RFID antennas and said second RFID antenna, wherein the switching mechanism is configured for activation is activated by a remote signal emitted by a RFID/ radio frequency data communication (RFDC) device (RFID/RFDC device); and configured to wherein the switching mechanism switches from one the first RFID antenna to another the second RFID antenna in response to the remote signal.

24. (currently amended) The RFID tag defined in claim 23 wherein the remote signal is an ultra-sonic signal.

25. (currently amended) The RFID tag defined in claim 23 wherein the remote signal is a wireless signal.

26. (currently amended) The RFID tag defined in claim 23 ~~wherein there are three antennas,~~ said RFID tag further comprising a third RFID antenna, wherein the switching mechanism that is connected to the third RFID antenna is configured to switch from the third RFID antenna to one of the first RFID antenna and the second RFID antenna in response to the remote signal emitted by the RFID/RFDC device.

27. (currently amended) The RFID tag defined in claim 26 wherein ~~each of the first RFID antennas~~ has a first maximum directionality, the second RFID antenna has a second maximum directionality, and third RFID antenna has a third maximum directionality and wherein the first maximum directionality, second maximum directionality, and third maximum directionality ~~directionalities of the antennas~~ are approximately orthogonal to each other.

28. (currently amended) A system for determining inventory in a section of a warehouse, comprising:

a plurality of locator tags, wherein associated with the inventory is associated with locator tags that include, the plurality of locator tags comprising:

switching mechanisms that are (1) coupled to a plurality of a first radio frequency identification (RFID) antennas;

a second RFID antenna; and

a switching mechanism that is connected to the first RFID antenna and the second RFID antenna, wherein the switching mechanism is configured for activation and (2) activated by a wireless signal wherein the switching mechanism and configured to switches from the first RFID one antenna to the second RFID another antenna in response to the wireless signal, comprising;

a plurality of radio frequency identification—and/radio frequency data communication (RFID/RFDC) devices located in the section of the warehouse, wherein the RFID/RFDC devices:

poll the plurality of locator tags by sending a first plurality of interrogation signals to the plurality of locator tags at a first time;

receive a first plurality of return signals from the plurality of locator tags;

send the wireless signals to activate the switching mechanisms;  
and

process the first plurality of return signals from the plurality of locator tags to determine a first identity of —identify the plurality of locator tags that are in range of the RFID/RFDC devices at the first time;

poll the plurality of locator tags by sending a second plurality of interrogation signals to the plurality of locator tags at a second time;

receive a second plurality of return signals from the plurality of locator tags;



a1  
process the second plurality of return signals from the plurality of  
locator tags to determine a second identity of the plurality of locator tags  
that are in range of the RFID/RFDC devices at the second time; and

a host computer system that receives the first identity of the plurality of locator tags  
that are in range of ~~each~~ the RFID/RFDC devices at the first time and the second identity of  
the plurality of locator tags that are in range of the RFID/RFDC devices at the second time  
~~for each polling and~~ to determines the ~~total~~ inventory of the section of the warehouse.

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